A TRUE DECLARATION OF THAT MEMORABLE PARLIAMENT vvhich vvrought Wonders.

Begun at *Westminster*, in the tenth year of the Reign of K. RICHARD the Second, Who was Deposed of His Crowne.

With a briefe Relation of His Life and Lamentable Death.

Also those Memorable matters, before and since the said Kings Reigne, done by PARLIAMENTS.

Being worthy the Observation of all men in these times of Distractions.

Printed in the Yeare of much Feare. 1643.

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A True Declaration of that Memorable Parliament which wrought Wonders

THis preſent occaſion, ſerving ſo opportunely fit, I thought it a labour well worthy the Obſervation to lay downe a true Narration of that memorable Parliament begun in the tenth year of *Richard* the Second, both for the great wonders that it wrought in the ſubvertſion of the Malignants who were neer unto the King, and had diſtilled much pernitious Counſell into His ſacred eares: As alſo that every good and carefull reader might learn therby to avoyd diverſities of miſeries, and the feare and danger of a cruell death. I will therefore give a true and ſhort Narration of that which hath laine hid a long time in the ſhaddow of forgetfullneſſe, concerning men of great and eminent Authority in this Kingdom, who hath been led away in the deceitfull path of Coveteouſneſſe, and have come to an untimely and ignominious end; being famous examples to deterr all men in authority, or whom favour ſhall raiſe neere unto the King, from practiſing thoſe or the like courſes.

When *Richard* the Second of that name, about the prime of his youth, ſway'd the Imperiall Scepter of our Realme, there flouriſhed in his Court certaine Peeres. *viz. Alexander Nevill*, Arch-biſhop of *Yorke*, A man more favoured by fortune then by the honour of his Decent. *Robert Vere* Duke of Ireland, *Michael de la poole*, Earle of Suffolke, and then Lord Chancelour, *Robert Triſſilian*, Lord chiefe Juſtice of England; and *Nicholas Brambre*, a man though low in parentage, yet ſometime Lord Major of *London*. Theſe men being raiſed by the ſpeciall favour of the King, and advanced to the degree of privy Councelors where the men who had the only rule of the Commonwealth, which they for a little while governed under the King with great care and diligence meriting thereby deſerved commendations, but this not long did continue for

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over come either with ambition, or with Covetousnesse or with the pleasures of the Court; they despised the Authority of their too easie King, and neglecting the commodity of the Realme in a short time, the Revenewes of the Crowne began to wast, the Treasure was exhausted, the Commons murmered at the multiplicity of Levyes & Subsidies and new wayes of taxations, the Peers repine to see themselves disgraced, and in one word the whole Kingdom endured an universall misery. The Nobility seing the miserable estate wherein themselves and the Kingdome was involved, urged the King to Summon a Parliament, which was done shortly after; in which, amongst many other Acts *Michael de la poole* was dismissed of his Chancellorshipe, and being accused of many crimes of Injustice as bribery, extortion, and the like, he was committed to *Windsor*-Castle, and all his lands confiscated to the King. Neither did the Parliament here give over but provided for the whole state by a mutuall consent betwixt His Majestie and the prelates, the Barons and the Commons, and with an unanimous consent, they chose a committee of the Lords Spirituall and Temporall to depresse all civill discentions, and to appease the grudgings of the people. Of the Spiritualty was chosen the Arch-bishop of *Canterbury*, the Arch-bishop of *Yorke*, the Bishop of *Ely*, the Bishop of *Winchester*, &c. Of the Layalty were elected by the Duke of *Yorke*, the Earle of *Arundell*, the Lord *Cobham*, the Lord *Scroope* &c. these as men eminent in vertue were chosen by generall suffrage and (the Parliament being then to be dissolved) were sworne to carry themselves as dutifull and obedient subjects in all their actions. Soone after the aforenamed Chancellor, *Michael de la poole* buzzed in the Kings eares (being moved with implacable fury against the Parliament) that the statutes then enacted, were prejudiciall to the Crowne, and much derogatory to his Princely Prerogative, insomuch that he should not have the power in his owne hands to preserve a servant or to bestowe a largesse &c. By these and other the like impious instigations, with which the Devill did continually supply them, they practised to annihelate these out of the Parliament, or whatsoever might seeme by the

liberty of the Subiect to reflect on the royall Prerogative of the Prince: And first by their serpentine tongues, and ambitious Projects, they so bewitched the noble instination of the King, that they induced him to beleeve that all the ill they did was a generall good, and so wrought you him, that he begann to distast and abhore the passed Acts of his Parliaments as treacherous plots & wicked devices. Next they studied to ingrosse the riches of the Kingdom into their own Coffers, and to the same end deale so cunningly, yet pleasingly with the King, that to some he gave ransomes of royall captives, taken in the late warrs in *France*; to some townes, to some Cities, to some Lands, to others money amounting to the sume of a hundred thousand markes to the great impoverishment both of King and Kingdom. Thirdly contrary to their allegiance they vilified the Dignity of the King, they cauled him to sware that with all his power during his life, he should maintaine, and defend them, from all their enemiss wether Forraigne or domesticke. Fourthly, where it was enacted that the King should sit with his Parliament at Westminster to consult of the publicke affaires, through the preservation of the aforesaid Conspirators he was drawn into the most remote parts of all his Realme, to the great disparagement of his great Counsell, and the generall dissatisfaction of the Kingdome. And when any of his great Counsell came to make relation of the state of the Realme unto his Majesty, they could not be granted accesse, unlesse they related the businesse in the presence of the conspirators, who was alwayes ready to upbraid them, if they uttered any thing that displeased them, and though they seemed to advance it, they did as much as in them lay, to hinder the King from exercising his Royall Prorogitive. But though there were so many Plots, Conspiracies, and Treasons against our State, our ever mercifull God inspired into the hearts of the Duke of *Glouceffer*, the Earles of *Arundell* and *Warwicke*, the spirit of valour and magnanimitie, and every man according to his ability Levyed a power for the preservation of the King and kingdome, all which forces being united, amounted to the number of 20000. And though the Conspirators by vertue of a certaine

taine Spirituall Commission, Proclaimed throughout the City of *London*. That no man upon the paine of the losse of his goods, should sell any victuall or ammunition to the Army of the Earle of *Arundall*, they could not debarre them from it. wherefore they counselled the *King* to absent himselfe from Parliament, and not consult of the affaires of the *Kingdome*, unlesse an Oath were taken that they (the said Conspirators) should have no acculation urged against them, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout *London*. that none under paine of confiscation of all their goods, should speake any upbraiding speeches concerning the King or the conspirators, which was a thing impossible to hinder. In the meane time the three noble men the Duke of *Glouceſter*, the Earles of *Arundall* and *Warwicke* having mustered their troops, sent an acculation in wrighting to the *King* against the said conspirators the Arch B. of *Yorke*. the Duke of *Ireland*. the Earle of *Suffolke*, *Robert Trissilian* and *Nicholas Brambre*, wherein they acculed them of high treason for Proclaiming through out all the shires where the King sourned, that all Barons *Knights* and Esquiers, with the greatest of the commonalty able to bare armes should spedily repare to the *King* for his defence against the power of the Commission. As also that contrary to the said Acts they caused the Duke of Ireland to be created chiefe Justice of Chester hereby selling Iustice as they listed and for giving pardons under the broad Seal to Fellons murtherers and such like: as also they taught Ireland to looke backe on her pristine estate of having a *King*; for they ploted to have the Duke created *K.* of Ireland: and for to have the confirmation of this design they allured the *King* to send his letters to the Pope.

When these things come to the *Kings* eares he sent unto them requiring to know what their demands were: Answer was returned, they desired that the Traytors who daily committed insufferable crimes and filled his eares with false reports to avoyd the effusion of more blood; might receive that reward their crimes deserved and that they might have free liberty of going and comming to his grace this the *King* gave consent unto and sitting in his throne at the great hall in westminster the Poore appelants

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with humble reverence bowed three times low before his Majesty on their knes and againe asked the aforesaid conspirators guilty of high-treason whereupon not long after the Duke of Ireland withdrew himselfe and marching unto Cheshire Lancashire and wales raised a power of 6000. men in the Kings name to overthrow and confound the appellants and marching towards *London* when he found the army of the appellants was marching downe the mountaines neere whitney like a Hive of Bees such a violent and cold palsey cowed them that they flung downe their armes and yeilded themselves to the mercy of the appellants the Duke of Ireland himselfe putting spures to his horse tooke the River where he hardly escaped drowning the conspirators hearing of this striken with feare under the coveat of the night did flie by water to the Tower and seduced the King to goe along with them.

Not long after, there was conference in the tower, betwixt the King and the said appellants, at the end of which the King did sweare to adhere to their counsailes, so farr as the rule of Law and Reason and Equity did require, and because the Harvest was now ripe, presently divers of the Officers of the Kings houshould were excluded, as *John Beuechamp · Peter Bourtoey* Knights and many others and of the clergy *Iohn Blake* Deane of the chappell *Iohn Lincolne* chancellour of the exchequer *John Clifford* clerk of the chapell were kept under Arrest: and thus this hideous brood of monsters so oftene shaken was quite overthrowne.

On the second of *February* the King came to his Parliament, and after him appeared the five noblemen appellants who leading one another hand in hand with Submisslive gestures they reverenced the King, and by the Mouth of *Robert Pleasington* their Speaker they thus declared. That the Duke of *Glouceſter* and themselves came to purge themselves of the Treasons laid to their charge, by their conspirators to whom the Lord Chancellor by the Command of the King answered, that the King conceaved honourably of them all especially of his cosin the Duke of *Glouceſter* who being of affiniy to him in a collaterall line could never (he said) be induced to attempt

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any Treason against his Majesty. On this, after thankes humbly given to the King, the appellants requested the King that sentence of condemnation might be given against the conspirators, but the King being moved in conscience and in charity perceiving that in every work they are to remember the end, desired that the processe might cease, but the Peers againe importuned him that no businesse might be debated untill this treason were adjudged: to which the King at length graciously granted his assent and when nothing could be produced by the conspirators to iustifie themselves. they were adiudged this heavy doome. That the Arch Bishope of Yorke, the Duke of Ireland, the Earle of *Suffolk*, *Tressilian* and *Brambre* should be drawne from the Tower to Tiburne, and there to be hanged upon a Gibbet untill they were dead, and all their Lands and goods to be confiscated that none of their Posterity might by them be any way enriched. After this many more of their accomplices were taken and indicted of high Treason, whose names here follow underwritten.

The Names of such as were charged and condemned of high Treason in the afore memed Memorable Parliament.

Alexander Nevill Arch Bishop of *Yorke*, *Robert de Vere* Duke of *Ireland* who being banniſhed into *France* was killed with a wild *Bore*. *Michael de la Poole* Earle of *Suffolk* L. high Chancellor. *Robert Tressilian* L. chiefe Justice of the Kings bench. *Sir Nicholas Brambre* sometimes Lord Major of *London* made a privy Counsellor. *Iohn Blake* Sergiant at *Armes*. *Thomas Vske* an intelligencer of *Tressilians*. All these (except the Duke of *Ireland*) were hanged and drawne at the Elmes now called Tyburne.

Robert Belknap, *Iohn Holt*, *Roger Falthorpe*, *William Burleigh*, *Iohn Lockton*, *Iohn Cary* were Judges and although condemnded, yet their lives were saved at the intercession of the Lords Spirituall and Temporall, and were afterwards banniſhed into *Ireland*. Sir *Symon Burleigh*, who was condemned and beheaded. Sir *Iohn Branchamp* Steward of the Houſhold to the King. Sir *Iames Beversous*.

There was also condemned and detected of the afore-

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said treason, The Bishop of *Chichester*, the Kings confessor Sir *Thomas Trivet* Knight, Sir *William Ellingham* Knight, Sir *Nicholas Neyworth*, *John Slake*, *John Lincolne*, which last, were three of the Clergy. Behold these men who feared not God nor regarded men, but having the Lawes in their owne hands wrested them now this way and now that way, as pleased best their appetites: wresting them at their pleasures for their owne Commodities, were at the last brought down to the depth of misery, from whence they were never able to free themselves.

Richard, Sonne of the valiant and victorious *Edward* the blacke Prince was borne at *Burdeaux* and grand-child to King *Edward* the third being eleven yeares old; began his Raigne the twenty one day of June, in the yeare of our Lord 1377. and was Crowned King at *Westminster* the 16 day of July, in bounty, beauty, and liberality, he farr surpassed all his Progenitors, but was over much given to ease and quietnesse, little regarding the feates of Armes And being young, was ruled most by young Councell regarding little the Councell of the sage men of the Realm, which thing turned this Land to great trouble, and himselfe to extreame misery; For being first disgraced by his Cozen *Henry* of *Bullingbroke*, Duke of *Herford*, Sonne of *Iohn* of *Gaunt*, D. of *Lancaster*; he was at length by the generall consent of Parliament deposed from his crowne and Kingdome, the 29. of *September* 1639. and committed to prison and and afterwards wickedly murdered for being sent to pomfret castle to be safely kept and Princely maintained, he was shortly after by King Henries direction and command (who feared least his estate might be shoken while King *Richard* lived) wickedly assaulted in his lodging Sir *Peirce* of *Exton* and 8. other armed men from one of them which with a Princely courage he wrested a brome bill and therewith slew 4 of them, fought with all the rest, untill coming by his owne chayre (in which the base cowardly Knight stoode for his owne safety) he was by him strooke with a Pole-axe in the hinder part of his head that presently he fell downe and died, when he had Raigned 22. yeers 17 weekes and 2. dayes.

FINIS.